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taneous emigration, derived their continuity from periodical visits, usually once a year and lasting for a month in the spring, by males from other tribes. Columbus, while coasting Haiti (1493), heard of such a community from an Indian who visited him on board the *Niña*. The account was precise; the women of 'Matinino' admitted annually, as temporary members of their tribe, a certain number of male visitors, who carried back with them, on departing, the male children born in each interval, the women retaining the girls to replenish their own society (Las Casas, *Historia*, Vol. I, p. 434). Later accounts afford a body of evidence strongly tending to prove the existence of such societies in the valley of the mighty stream on which these communities have indelibly stamped the name of River of Amazona. He who summarily rejects these accounts knows little of the realities of the transition from savagery to barbarism. Women, as the Spaniards often found to their cost, can use the bow and arrow not less effectively than men. In possession of this deadly weapon, as well as of the materials of subsistence, they might easily form independent communities, and maintain them by the means adopted by the South American Amazons for an indefinite period. When women, says Southey, have been accustomed to accompany their husbands to battle, there is nothing that can be thought improbable in their establishing themselves as an independent race and thus securing that freedom for their daughters which they had obtained for themselves."

It is important to notice that one-half at least of the volume treats of linguistics. The languages of the American natives are analyzed and, as to their mental capacities, compared with those of the Old World.

Some are possessed of highly polysynthetic features, whereas others have scarcely attained the lower degrees of agglutination. A few of their number may be called analytic, like those of the Maya family, but the majority are synthetic.

A. S. GATSCHE.

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## ZOOLOGY.

**Koelliker's Reminiscences.** — The reminiscences of a long life of interesting and worthy activity form the latest volume from Professor Koelliker.<sup>1</sup> The book contains a little over four hundred pages, of

<sup>1</sup> Koelliker, A. *Erinnerungen aus meinem Leben*. Leipzig, W. Engelmann. 1899. vi + 399 pp., 8 plates, and 10 text-figures.

which the first fifty are devoted to an autobiography, followed by something over a hundred on the author's scientific and other travels, and concluded by a résumé of his scientific work. There are numerous illustrations, including several portraits of the author.

**Degeneration of Duodenal Glands in the Cat.** — Stöhr<sup>1</sup> has recently shown that in fully grown cats single duodenal glands, or even parts of such glands, may completely degenerate; the degeneration begins with a thickening of the connective tissue surrounding the glands, followed by the death of the gland cells and their absorption by leucocytes.

P.

**Greeley on Tide-Pool Fishes of California.** — In the *Bulletin of the U. S. Fish Commission* for 1899 is a report by Arthur White Greeley, teacher of biology in the State Normal School of San Diego, on the fishes collected by him at the tide pools of California.

The small marine sculpins originally forming Girard's genus *Oligocottus* are here divided into seven genera: *Blennicottus* Gill, *Oxycottus* Jordan, *Rusciculus* Greeley, *Dialarchus* Greeley, *Oligocottus*, *Clinocottus* Gill and *Eximia* Greeley; and four new species, *Blennicottus recalvus*, *Rusciculus rimensis*, *Dialarchus snyderi*, and *Eximia rubellio*, are described and well figured. Greeley shows that the original types of *Blennicottus globiceps* and *Oligocottus maculosus* belonged to the northern forms, the species called *Blennicottus bryosus* and *Oligocottus borealis*, by Jordan and Evermann. This fact necessitates the new names of *Blennicottus recalvus* and *Dialarchus snyderi* for the species common to the southward of Monterey. The figure of *D. snyderi* is apparently taken from a female and fails to show the separation of the enlarged first anal ray on which the genus is based.

Mr. Greeley concludes from his study of intergrading forms that no real difference exists between the northern species of *Gibbonsia* (*evides*) and the southern *Gibbonsia elegans*.

The pools of the rocky coasts of California, a region with high tides and a profuse growth of algæ, are especially rich in fish life. Those from Pescadero to Monterey have been very fully studied by Mr. Greeley, more carefully than by any one else. On the coast of Mexico the poisonous milky juice of the tree called Hava (contain-

<sup>1</sup> Stöhr, P. Ueber Rückbildung von Duodenaldrüsen, *Festschrift der phys.-med. Gesellschaft zu Würzburg*, pp. 209-214, 1 Taf., 1899.